



The Partnership for Science and Technology recently presented Energy Advocate Awards to five individuals including Harold Blackman, director of INL's Center for Advanced Energy Studies, a collaboration with Idaho's public universities.

## Energy advocate awards honor two INL leaders

By [Kortny Rolston](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

A community science advocacy group has recognized two longtime Idaho National Laboratory employees for their contributions to the energy field.

[The Partnership for Science and Technology](#) honored Harold Blackman and Stephen Herring during its recent annual awards banquet. Herring, a prominent researcher and INL fellow, was named this year's nuclear energy advocate while Blackman, director of the [Center for Advanced Energy Studies](#) (CAES), received the organization's first energy education advocate award.

"No one is more deserving of PST's Energy Education Advocate and Nuclear Energy Advocate awards than Dr.'s Blackman and Herring," said Lane Allgood, the organization's executive director. "Both rank very high among their peers and are a credit to their profession, institutions and our community."

The Partnership for Science and Technology is a nonprofit organization that advocates for advancement of science, energy and technology. Its mission is to provide accurate information on energy-related regional activities including those at INL.

The group bestowed its national energy advocate award to the U.S. Senate Western Caucus for introducing the [Clean, Affordable, Reliable Energy Act of 2009](#). Idaho's [U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo](#) accepted the award on behalf of the caucus. PST's regional award went to [Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer](#) for his work to promote clean energy investment and development of the West's abundant resources. The local award went to the Idaho Building & Construction trades council for its history of supporting INL projects and other energy-related initiatives.

Among those supporting Blackman's nomination were INL Director John Grossenbacher and the vice presidents of research at [Idaho State University](#), [Boise State University](#) and [University of Idaho](#), all of whom are partners in CAES.



**Award recipients Rod Fuger (left), Idaho Building & Construction Trades council president; Carpenters Union representative John Howrup; INL Fellow Stephen Herring; Leslie Huddleston for U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo; and Blackman.**



**INL Fellow Stephen Herring received the 2009 Nuclear Energy Advocate Award for his work demonstrating how nuclear energy could help produce hydrogen.**

achievements in nuclear energy, including advancements at Idaho National Laboratory in the science and engineering of the production of hydrogen from nuclear energy.

The Partnership for Science and Technology said Blackman "was selected based on his tireless work to cement the CAES partnership, to build competitive energy research programs, to attract bright graduate students and outstanding faculty to Idaho's universities, and to reach across Idaho to promote an informed energy policy dialogue."

Blackman said he is honored to be chosen as the organization's first energy education advocate.

"CAES has been successful because of the fantastic collaboration that exists among the partners and of course the support that has come from the state, community and organizations like PST," he said. "It is a pleasure to serve in a leadership role with the quality individuals that make up the CAES team. We have much to look forward to in the future."

[The Idaho Section of the American Nuclear Society](#) nominated Herring, who has worked at INL since 1979. PST said it awarded Herring the Nuclear Energy Advocate award for his "noteworthy achievements in nuclear energy, including advancements at Idaho National Laboratory in the science and engineering of the production of hydrogen from nuclear energy."

"Dr. Herring is responsible for breakthroughs in [High Temperature Electrolytic](#) production of hydrogen using the heat and electricity from advanced nuclear reactors," the award announcement said. "The development and commercialization of this technology could have a long-term and significant impact on future clean energy production in the world and the revitalization of the nuclear industry in the United States."

Herring emphasized new applications for nuclear energy when he accepted the award.

"The design of nuclear reactors is moving beyond its initial use for generating electricity and toward fulfilling the growing needs for transportation fuels, particularly gasoline, diesel and jet fuel," he said. "The production of these fuels, using heat and electricity from nuclear energy, both reduces the overall carbon footprint and makes the U.S. less reliant on imported crude oil."

View news coverage of Herring and the [High Temperature Electrolytic production of hydrogen project](#).

[Feature Archive](#)